GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:590
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
INDIA S ENTRY IN OIC
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Qatar`s proposal for making India a member of the Organization of Islamic countries was rejected in the recently held meeting of the Organisation in Khartoum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the reaction fo the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a & b) The Foreign Minister of Qatar His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, in his speech at the plenary meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers held in Khartoum from June 25-27, 2002 proposed admission of India into Organization of Islamic Conference as observer in the first instance to be followed by full membership of the organization at a later date. It has been reported that the Qatari Foreign Minister made this proposal in the context of a vision of the Organization`s relations with non-member states which have large Muslim communities, and the need to promote understanding and civilizational dialogue among cultures as a new approach to bring about security and stability. However, as per the available reports, Qatar subsequently withdrew the proposal.

c) We see it as a recognition of the fact that the second largest Muslim community in the world lives in India. While we have excellent bilateral relations with most member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, India is not a member of the Organization and has not considered applying for it.